



AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE REGARDING THE RIPPLE EFFECT...

Crossroads Church - 3 year campaign to end thirst

SOAP READING—March 2, 2010

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S: Philippians 2:1-18

O: Jesus gave up everything he had in order to save us. He held on to nothing that he had earned or deserved. He let go of being God. He let go of being in charge. He let go of all the power and glory that heaven afforded him. He sunk to being a creature that he created. Then he ended up submitting himself as a creature to our creation. We made death a part of the world, and Jesus submitted fully to his humanity and died. But death wasn't enough. Jesus ending up dying the worst possible kind of death invented. He died a death that completely shamed him and declared to the world that he was a fraud, not to mention it really hurt. He sunk to the lowest level possible as a convicted criminal. Paul then invites us into that kind of life. We should not be proud or try to impress others; we should be humble. We should work hard and live clean and innocent lives. Paul himself realizes he may lose his own life, but he can rejoice because of what Jesus did and the way that God responded to Jesus' sacrifice. When Jesus let go of everything God caught him and raised him to the highest place of honor and authority. When we live out the Jesus like life of letting go of everything, Jesus gets the glory for that too. In the end our sacrifice ends up leading to honor and authority for Jesus in this world. Strangely, when all is said and done, sacrifice ends up in joy for us.

A: I want to learn to let go of things. I want to be totally surrendered to Jesus' call. I won't impress people when I do that. I won't get to show off how good I am, but I will look a lot more like Jesus. Something mysterious and wonderful happens in that. God picks up what I let go of and uses it to bring tremendous change in the world and glory to Jesus.

P: Show me Jesus what I need to let go of. Help me be the kind of person who isn't afraid to let go of what I have earned and deserve. Help me to embrace open handed humility. Let my little splash look like Jesus' big one.